

Joint Management Plan Review
Cordell Bank
Gulf of the Farallones
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries



Summary Scoping Document

Report to Sanctuary Advisory Councils

February 25, 2002

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Document

1.2 Summary of Public Scoping Process

2.0 Evaluating Issues and Setting Priorities

2.1 Advisory Council Input

Figure 1. Process for Prioritizing Scoping Issues

2.2 Tables Summarizing Comments

Table 1. Summary of Issues Raised During Scoping

Table 2. Analysis of Cross-cutting Issues

Table 3. Analysis of Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Issues

Table 4. Analysis of Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Issues

Table 5. Analysis of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Issues

2.3 Appendices

Appendix 1: Full List of Issues Raised at Scoping Meetings and in Writing

Appendix 2: JMPR Process Diagram

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Document

This document was created to assist National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) staff and Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) members from Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries, and the public, in understanding and interpreting the comments received during the scoping phase of the Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR). Approximately 4,000 comments were obtained from participants at the 20 public scoping meetings. Additionally, the NMSP received nearly 8,500 written comments via letters, emails, and petitions.

This document summarizes the scoping comments received through early February 2002. It organizes the comments into 30 general issue categories. When feasible, the comments are attributed to a specific sanctuary or to multiple sites. Background information is provided for each issue area. NMSP staff and the three SACs will use this document, in conjunction with evaluation criteria, to prioritize issues that will be addressed in the JMPR.

1.2 Summary of Scoping Process

Raising Public Awareness and Participation

Management plan review is a lengthy and complex public process, particularly when three individual sanctuaries are involved at the same time. In order to raise awareness, reduce confusion, and increase public participation throughout the JMPR, Sanctuary staff from all three sites and headquarters developed a joint Strategic Communications Plan. The plan calls for conducting outreach to various user groups and members of the media, and detailed methods for informing the public about the JMPR.

One of the first outreach strategies was to create a project website and specific outreach materials. Informational pamphlets were developed in early November to inform people about each sanctuary, the JMPR process, and how they could get involved. The program launched a JMPR website (<http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/>) in early November. The website contains information about the JMPR and other general information about each site, including maps, existing regulations and management plans. All outreach materials and products from the public scoping meetings have also been posted on the website.

Individual State of the Sanctuary reports were developed for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries. They were made available on the website and hard copies were sent out to thousands of people on each of the Sanctuary's mailing lists. The reports provide information about each Sanctuary, their significant accomplishments to date, and the current and emerging resource management issues. The intent of these reports was to help raise public awareness about each Sanctuary before the public scoping meetings were held.

Prior to the scoping meetings, staff made efforts to contact and explain the Jmpr process to local and regional media. Media were encouraged to help raise awareness about the Jmpr and bolster public participation at the scoping meetings. To date, the following media “hits” have been tracked: 35+ feature print articles, 7 radio interviews, and 6 television station reports. Staff also distributed newspaper and radio public service announcements, calendar event listings, and placed advertisements announcing the local scoping meetings. Scoping meeting flyers and posters were posted at ports and harbors, universities, and other marine-related businesses. Finally, a notice was placed in the *Federal Register* formally announcing the scoping process.

Scoping Meetings

Beginning on November 28, 2001, and lasting until January 17, 2002, the NMSP held 20 public scoping meetings in communities throughout the north-central California coast, from Gualala to San Luis Obispo, and one meeting each in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Approximately 1,000 people participated in these forums to comment on the three Sanctuaries’ management strategies and provide input on specific issues they see as management priorities for the next 5 to 10 years. The scoping meetings and written comments are tools that are used to “scope out” or receive input from resource users, interest groups, government agencies, and other members of the public on resource management issues. After the meetings, Sanctuary staff compiled all of the comments raised at the meetings and posted them on the Joint Management Plan Review website.

The format for each public scoping meeting was similar, though tailored to meet the needs for each venue. The Sanctuary manager or superintendent opened each scoping meeting and provided a summary of the Jmpr process, detailed the meeting format, and answered questions. Following the introduction, the participants broke into smaller discussion groups of 10 to 12 people. Each group had an NMSP staff leader, or on some occasions a member of a Sanctuary Advisory Council, to help guide the discussion and ensure everyone had the opportunity to provide comments. Each group also had an NMSP staff person record each of the comments on a flip-chart so the group could see that their comments were captured. At the end of the meeting, the whole group reconvened and the Sanctuary manager or superintendent summarized issues raised in the individual breakout groups so everyone could hear a sampling of issues raised in other groups.

Written Comments

In addition to public scoping meetings, the program accepted written comments from early November 2001 to early February 2002. Comments were sent to the NMSP in the form of E-mails, letters, faxes, and a standard form (handed out at scoping meetings and provided on the website). As of February 14, 2002, the program received approximately 6,500 e-mails, 300 letters, 13 faxes, and a petition with 1,700 signatures.

A full list of issues raised at the scoping meetings and in the written comments can be found on the website and are included with all the other comments in Appendix 1.

2.0 EVALUATING ISSUES AND SETTING PRIORITIES

2.1 Advisory Council Input

The public scoping process was incredibly successful at generating public participation in the management plan review for all three sites and for identifying compelling suggestions for improving management of these three national treasures. The sheer number of comments exceeded program expectations, as more public comments were received than when the sites were designated. Moreover, comments have been received from individuals in most states across the nation.

Below are tables that have been developed by staff at each site, and the NMSP headquarters, to analyze and synthesize the thousands of comments received. They serve as the next iteration of comments from the “raw” comments listed on the website for the scoping meetings.

The next step in the process is to get advice from the Sanctuary Advisory Councils that help with management of all three national marine sanctuaries (see Figure 1; this diagram shows more clearly the specific steps that the program will take from scoping, to issue prioritization, to the development of a work plan on priority issues). This summary scoping document and a set of proposed criteria for establishing priorities is being distributed to all three Sanctuary Advisory Councils on or around February 25, 2002. Sanctuary Advisory Council members will use this document as they communicate with their constituents and the public about the issues raised during the scoping process. Individual Advisory Council members will be asked to review this summary scoping document, the proposed prioritization criteria, and input from their constituents to select their top four site-specific sub-issues (i.e., MBNMS SAC member choose Monterey Bay NMS issues) and their top four cross-cutting sub-issues that they believe should be addressed in the JMPR. These eight priority issues will need to be submitted to their respective management plan coordinators by Friday, March 22.

The members' individual priority issues will be compiled into a matrix and distributed prior to a joint SAC workshop in April (the date for the workshop still needs to be established). The purpose of the workshop is to narrow down and prioritize the list of issues identified during the scoping process into something that can be realistically addressed during the JMPR. The three SACs, as a group, will use agreed-upon evaluation criteria to prioritize those issues they will recommend to the Sanctuary to address during the JMPR. Each individual SAC will also provide recommendations on site-specific issues.

Following the joint SAC prioritization workshop, Sanctuary staff will analyze the SAC recommendations and develop a draft working plan for how they could be addressed in the JMPR. Staff may also suggest additional national or site-specific issues that need to be addressed during the review. It is envisioned that working groups will be created to address site-specific issues and cross-cutting issues. SAC members will have an opportunity to comment on the draft plan before it is made final. Once working groups are formed, the issue characterization phase of the JMPR will begin. We hope to begin the issue characterization phase of JMPR, including the creation of working groups in summer.

2.2 Tables Summarizing Comments

At the December 5, 2002 meeting, the MBNMS Advisory Council asked sanctuary staff to exercise professional judgement to synthesize the thousands of comments provided during the scoping process and provide some analysis of those comments that need further consideration as priorities. This request matched the analytical process NMSP intended to apply to comments. Thus, the tables that follow provide a synthesis and analysis of comments, as discussed further below.

The approximately 12,500 comments raised during the scoping process break into 30 broad categories or “issues”. In the tables that follow, sub-issues for most of these broad issues are identified from the scoping comments. The sub-issues reflect priorities, that came from the public, that the NMSP could further develop in the joint management plan review process.

Table 1: Summary of Issues Raised During Scoping

Table 1 presents a general overview of the issues raised during scoping. It provides summary information for each meeting in terms of location, number of participants, and issues raised (organized into 30 main categories). The table also depicts those issues raised in the written comments and the number of comments received. This table is a reflection on whether an issue was brought up during a meeting or in the written comments, and does not attempt to prioritize or count the number of comments received on each issue.

Tables 2 - 5: Analysis of Issues

These tables summarize, synthesize and conduct background analysis on the numerous issues raised during the scoping process. Table 2 presents issues that cross-cut two or three of the national marine sanctuaries here in northern/central California. Issues that apply to two or more sites, and a table for each of the site-specific issues. In all tables, the issues were divided into 30 categories with a brief background description for each. The sub-issues reflect a consolidation of similar comments and themes. Although some sub-issues could conceivably apply to more than one issue area, staff assigned sub-issues to the issue area with the most significant relationship. For instance, the comment that MBNMS should expand and more fully support the Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network is shown in the issue area, Monitoring, yet, it could have also been shown in the issue area Water Quality.

It should also be noted that the NMSP received many comments concerning a particular issue that were opposed to each other (i.e., sanctuary should do something; the sanctuary should not do something). This scenario occurs in almost every category provided. For example, one comment says to move a boundary in a certain way and another comment says to keep things status quo. In the tables below, staff have captured the comments that asked for action, and typically have not included comments that asked for no action. It is reasonable for readers to consider that for every sub-issue that calls for an action, there was another received that asked

for no action on that same topic. Nonetheless, all of the comments received are part of the record and can be found in Appendix 1

Table 3 provides the comments that relate specifically, and exclusively, to the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Table 4 is the same for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and Table 5 provides the comments that relate to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. It is possible that for all three sites there may be site-specific comments that have a close analogue in the cross-cutting table. It is important for all Sanctuary Advisory Council members to read the site-specific table that applies to you, as well as the cross-cutting table to discern those comments that apply to the sanctuary you represent. It is also important to us that, at a minimum, you take a chance to get acquainted with the comments that pertain to other sanctuaries. A major goal of the NMSP is to get your assistance in prioritizing the issues that relate to the entire region, not just the sanctuary on whose advisory council you sit.

2.3 Appendices

Several appendices have been produced that you may wish to refer to in reviewing this summary scoping document. Other analytical material may be produced, and will be provided as additional appendices.

Appendix 1: Full List of Issues Raised at Scoping Meetings and in Writing

This appendix organizes the scoping meeting and written comments received at all three sites and headquarters into the 30 main issue areas. Under each issue area, the comments are divided between issues and suggested strategies and tools. The NMSP received thousands of individual comments that ranged from issues and problems, to strategies and tools. This table provides summarizes all of the non-duplicate comments. The “raw” or unprocessed comments can be viewed on the website for the scoping meetings.

Appendix 2: JMPR Process Diagram

This diagram depicts the entire joint management plan review process from the initial planning stages to the completion of the final management plan. It also shows the reader where we are in the process, at step 4 - internal evaluation of issues.

Figure 1: Process for Prioritizing Scoping Issues - CA JMPR

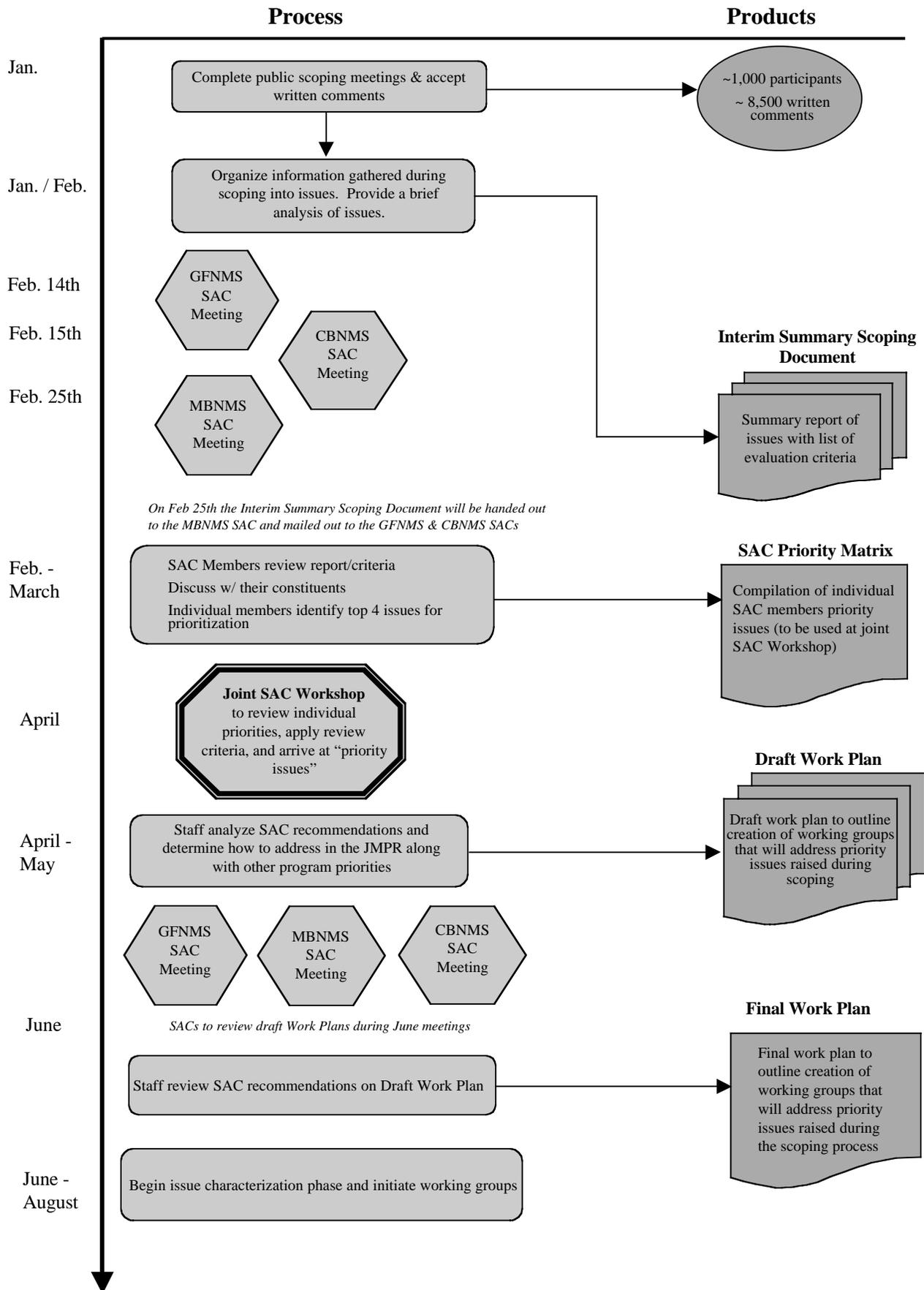


TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED DURING SCOPING

		ISSUES																																
Venue		Acoustics	Administration	Aquaculture/ Kelp Harvest	Boundary Modifications	Coastal Armoring	Coastal Development	Community Outreach	Cultural Resources	Eco-Based Cons. Mgmt.	Education	Enforcement & Regulations	Exotic Species	Fishing	Habitat Alteration	Marine Bioprospecting	Marine Debris & Discharge	Military Activities	Monitoring	Oil & Gas Development	Partnerships w/ Agencies	Partnerships w/ Community Groups	MPWCs	Radioactive Waste	Research	SACs	Spill Response & Contingency	User Conflicts	Vessel Traffic	Water Quality	Wildlife Disturbance			
11/28/01	Santa Cruz 1:00 pm 51 participants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
11/28/01	Santa Cruz 6:30 pm 73 participants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
11/29/01	Monterey 1:00 pm 58 participants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
11/29/01	Monterey 6:30 pm 40 participants	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12/01/01	Salinas 7 participants		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓										✓					✓		✓		
12/03/01	San Luis Obispo 24 participants		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	
12/04/01	Cambria 24 participants		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12/05/01	Big Sur 30 participants		✓		✓			✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12/06/01	Half Moon Bay 62 participants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12/07/01	Half Moon Bay 30 participants				✓					✓	✓	✓		✓						✓		✓	✓			✓				✓		✓		
12/11/01	Sacramento 14 participants		✓		✓			✓		✓	✓			✓	✓				✓		✓			✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	
12/14/01	Washington, DC 5 participants		✓							✓														✓		✓								
01/07/02	Gualala 35 participants		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01/08/02	Bodega Bay 120 participants	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01/09/02	Pt. Reyes Station 80 participants	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01/10/02	San Rafael 40 participants	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01/14/02	Rohnert Park 45 participants		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01/15/02	San Francisco 80 participants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01/16/02	Pacifica 65 participants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01/17/02	San Jose 20 participants	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8,500 Written Comments (email, letters, faxes, forms, petitions)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Over 4,000 individual comments were taken during the 20 public scoping meetings.